REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated November 6, 2003, the Examiner objects to the specification because of informalities. Claims 1, 5 and 11 have been objected to because of informalities. Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,256,676 (Taylor et al.).

By the present response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 5 and 11-13 to further clarify the invention. Applicants have submitted new claim 14 for consideration by the Examiner and assert that this claim does not contain any prohibited new matter. Claims 1-14 remain pending in the present application.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 5 and 11 have been objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended these claims to further clarify the invention and respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Taylor et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Taylor et al. discloses an agent-adapter architecture used in systems and methods to integrate applications of the type normally deployed across a networked enterprise. A plurality of adapters, each of which is adapted to perform a discrete function associated with respective ones of the plurality of enterprise applications is encapsulated by an agent. The agent is extensible, including one or more embedded objects, each of which is adapted to perform a discrete function that may

or may not be associated with respective ones of the plurality of enterprise applications.

Regarding claims 1, 2, 11 and 13, Applicants submit that Taylor et al. does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of these claims of, inter alia, determining a path type, the path type being one of a first path type in which two information systems cooperatively work and a second path type in which more than two information systems cooperatively work, and for determining necessity of message conversion and the message conversion kind, where a hub system performs a flow control when the determined path type is the second path type. Taylor et al. discloses to configure an application integration system using agent adapters. Taylor et al. does not disclose or suggest changing the functions provided by the enterprise application integration (EAI) system. Taylor et al. does not disclose or suggest flow control, or a hub performing a flow control when a determined path type is a second path type in which more than two information systems cooperatively work. Further, Taylor et al. does not disclose or suggest determining a path type where the path type is one of a first path type in which two information systems cooperatively work and a second path type in which more than two information systems cooperatively work, as recited in the claims of the present application. Taylor merely discloses an agent-adapter architecture used to integrate applications of the type normally deployed across a networked enterprise.

Regarding claims 3-10, 12 and new claim 14, Applicants submit that these claims are dependent on one of independent claims 2 and 11 and, therefore, are

patentable at least for the same reasons noted regarding these independent claims. For example, Applicants submit that Taylor et al. does not disclose or suggest flow control means for determining a flow and destination of a message received from a first information system based on a class of the message where the decision means further determines whether the flow control means should be used.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Taylor et al. does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of claims 1-13 and new claim 14 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-14 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.38964X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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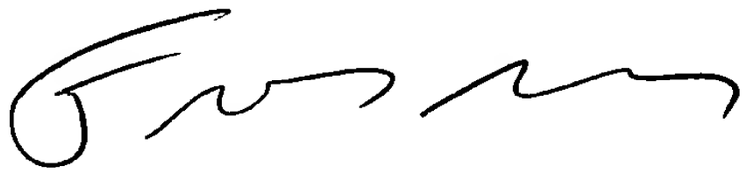

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